



Ninety-Ninth Legislature - First Session - 2005
Committee Statement
LB 690

Hearing Date: March 1, 2005

Committee On: Education

Introducer(s): (Stuhr, Combs, Heidemann, McDonald, Raikes, Schrock)

Title: Adopt the Career Education Partnership Act

Roll Call Vote – Final Committee Action:

Advanced to General File

X Advanced to General File with Amendments

Indefinitely Postponed

Vote Results:

8	Yes	Senators Bourne, Byars, Howard, Kopplin, McDonald, Raikes, Schrock, Stuhr
0	No	
0	Present, not voting	
0	Absent	

Proponents:

Senator Elaine Stuhr
Richard Katt
Tom Vickers
John Bonaiuto
Jeff Schellpeper
Patricia Crisler

Jim Rose
Richard Campbell
Joshua Germer
Amber Haugland

Jessica L. Hermansen

Representing:

Introducer
Nebraska Department of Education
Nebraska Community College Association
Nebraska Association of School Boards
Nebraska Agriculture Educators Association
OJC (Opportunities, Jobs, Careers) at
Metropolitan Community College
Fillmore Central Public Schools
Beatrice Public Schools
Self
University of Nebraska-Lincoln Agricultural
Education
Self

Opponents:

Representing:

Neutral:

Representing:

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

Legislative Bill 690 would create the Career Education Partnership Act.

Legislative findings would state:

1. All students should have equitable opportunities to obtain knowledge and skills to meet the academic, civic, and economic demands of the 21st century;
2. Schools need resources for students to learn information and communication skills, thinking and problem-solving skills, and interpersonal and self-directional skills to be successful in their work, family, and community;
3. Schools need resources to motivate high-risk students to graduate;
4. Many schools are experiencing continuing declines in enrollment;
5. There is an economic crisis in the rural areas and a need to establish strategies and programs that develop skills enabling students to complete high school, find jobs, build assets, and remain in their communities; and
6. Many young adults leave the state to seek higher education and employment opportunities.

The purpose of the Act would be to support schools in continuing their career education programs with state grants. The Act would:

1. Identify and explore options for implementation in different size schools;
2. Collaborate with ongoing school improvement efforts;
3. Create models of collaboration between career and academic education;
4. Develop partnerships between secondary and postsecondary career education institutions; and
5. Develop partnerships with business and industry based on workforce development needs.

The Department of Education would provide grants to partnerships of two or more school districts that are collaborating on a project with an educational service unit, a community college, and an advisory group related to the purposes of the Act. The advisory group would be an economic development board, a chamber of commerce board, or a group specifically designed to support career education and entrepreneurial activities.

Grant money would be used to provide equitable opportunities for students and would be required to be used in a minimum of 2 of the following areas:

1. Developing academic competencies, technical competencies, and basic work skill foundations for students;
2. Developing curriculum;
3. Employing certified teachers to provide course instruction;
4. Providing professional development for certified teachers who provide course instruction; and
5. Purchasing supplies necessary for program delivery.

Grants could not exceed \$75,000 per project. Grant recipients would have 2 years to expend the grant funds and could not receive funding for more than 1 project at a time. Grants would be

awarded directly to one of the participating school districts. The department would act as the fiduciary agent for the grants.

Career education would be defined as 80 instructional units from any of the following areas:

1. Agriculture education;
2. Business education;
3. Career education;
4. Cooperative education or diversified occupations;
5. Family and consumer sciences;
6. Health occupations;
7. Industrial technology education;
8. Marketing education; and
9. Trade and industrial education.

Career education would include curriculum, work ethics, general employability skills, technical skills, occupational specific skills, and applied learning that integrates academic knowledge and vocational skills.

An intent is state to appropriate \$450,000 each fiscal year.

Explanation of amendments, if any:

The Committee Amendments would remove the finding regarding an economic crisis in rural areas and would streamline the structure of the findings language. The amendments would also revise the definition of career education to state that career education includes curriculum, work ethics, general employability skills, technical skills, occupational specific skills, and applied learning that integrates academic knowledge and vocational skills taught through the course areas listed in the original provisions. Clarification would be added to state that the grant process would be competitive and that the collaborative partnerships would be required to include 2 or more local systems, instead of school districts. The requirements to provide equitable opportunities and to use the money in specified areas would be combined to state that the grant money would be used to provide for equitable opportunities in the specified areas.

Senator Ron Raikes, Chairperson